Camelot

Wells Operatic Society

1969

The Creation of A Wells Theatre

As long ago as 1965 the Society discussed the possibility of a Wells Operatic Theatre and Headquarters, and after three years of investigating every possibility, in September 1968 the project, that was once thought merely a dream, became a reality. The Society was granted the lease of the former Boys' Department of the Blue School in Chamberlain Street by the good graces of the Wells City Council.

From this date an enthusiastic group of members have used their spare time to convert an old school into a Theatre and Headquarters. A stage has been constructed under the direction of Peter Rice and in addition the former classrooms have been converted into a comfortable lounge, a scenery store, wardrobe and properties room and office.

The Theatre, when completed, will seat an audience of two-hundred in comfortable theatre seats, and the Society intends to make full use of the amenities that have been created for the theatre-goer. This year we will be presenting " Trial by Jury " in full costume, and many other concerts and entertainments are planned and we hope that full support is given to the Society to enable it to make " The Little Theatre " (the name the Society have christened this building) a cultural and entertainment centre for Wells City.

The members have been given great encouragement for this project by our President Arthur Campkin and Chairman Harold Dodd and apart from many gifts by the members of the Society by way of furniture and furnishings, Messrs. Marglass of Sherborne donated all the curtains for the stage, Messrs. Whiting the paint for all the decoration, Mr. Cunane donated a Grand Piano and Mr. Board an upright piano

We hope that you, our audience and friends, will visit us at " The Little Theatre " for our productions and continue to support us at our annual large productions at the Regal.

WELLS OPERATIC SOCIETY

An Amateur Society affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic Association

Presents for its 50th Production

Camelot

A Spectacular Musical Play. Based on " The Once and Future King " by T. H. White

Book and Lyrics by Alan J. Lerner **Music by Frederick Loewe**

(By arrangement with Chappell & Co., Ltd.)

President : Councillor Arthur Campkin (Deputy Mayor of Wells)

Hon. Vice-President : C. F. Coles, Esq.

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Social Committee Secretary : Mrs. J. Delaney

Patrons are respectfully reminded that cigarette smoke discomforts the Singers

The Story of Camelot

We first meet Arthur on the eve of his wedding to Guenevere. The prospect appals him and he has fled from the Court to hide in a tree, from which Merlin the magician is trying to entice him by praising the qualities of the Queen to be. He is unsuccessful, and Arthur is still perched there when a lovely young woman—Guenevere—appears. She, equally nervous at the prospect of marrying a man she does not know, has fled from the State reception. Peering down, and listening to her singing " Where Are the Simple Joys of Maidenhood ?", Arthur falls from the tree, at her feet. He is overcome by her beauty and falls in love, gradually winning her over to the idea of living in Camelot.

Later the same day, Merlyn, who can see into the future, is lured away by a nymph, Nimue, before he can warn Arthur of several dangers threatening the Royal personage.

The next scene takes place five years later. The marriage is successful and the nation has prospered but Arthur is worried by the barbarity of the court's existence; by the fact that his knights are only used to create war and strife. He wants a new order, and hits upon the idea of the Knights of the Round Table, who will create a new form of chivalry " Where Might Champions Right ".

One of the first knights to be attracted to the Table is Lancelot du Lac, a young Frenchman of exceptional virtue and prowess. Arthur introduces him to Guenevere and the court at a May-day picnic where all are having a jolly time at the expense of a comical knight, King Pellinore. Guenevere thinks Lancelot vain and boastful. Later, however, when he defeats three of the greatest knights, in a joust and performs a miracle by bringing one of them, Sir Lionel, to life with his prayers, Guenevere gradually falls in love with him, and he with her.

Arthur, aware of the situation, decides that in the interests of the court and country he must ignore it, and in the second act, some two years later, it is apparent that he has maintained this tortuous resolve.

Soon afterwards, a menacing young man from Scotland appears at Camelot. He reveals himself as Mordred, the illegitimate son of Morgause the enchantress and Arthur. His evil influence gradually disrupts the life of the court and, one evening, while Arthur is trapped in the forest by Morgan le Fey, Mordred's wicked fairy aunt, Mordred breaks into the Queen's bedchamber and confronts Lancelot, who has gone there to break off his affair with Guenevere. Lancelot fights his way out and escapes to France.

Arthur, baffled and unhappy, cannot prevent Guenevere from being sentenced to death by burning at the stake. He has lost all initiative and it is Lancelot and his men who succeed in rescuing the Queen and taking her to France. Arthur has no alternative but to go to war against Lancelot, and the final scene takes place at dawn on the battlefield before Lancelot's castle of Joyous Gard where they meet once more. Guenevere offers to return to be burned at the stake, a sacrifice which Arthur will not accept. They part for the last time—Guenevere to spend the rest of her life in a convent, and Arthur and Lancelot to prepare for battle.

At this point a boy, Tom of Warwick, appears and tells Arthur how the fame of the Round Table and all it still stands for in England makes him eager to fight in the battle. Arthur then realises that his life and work have not been in vain and we leave him on the battlefield with excultation in his heart.

Acknowledgments

The Members of the Society wish to express their thanks to our President, Patrons and subscribing members for their support. Messrs. Willmotts (Transport Wells) Ltd. for their help and kindness, Mrs. Josephine Bosley for her hard work as accompanist, The Manager and staff of the Regal, Wells, and Messrs. T. R. Morgan & Co. for their help.

We wish to thank Harold Dodd and Tommy Allwright for judging the Poster Competition, and all the children for their entries. Children of 4c Wells Central Junior School. Andrew Banks for designing and making Chess Set. Messrs. E.M.I. Ltd. of Wells for their help.

Fred Gibbons "*Pellinore*" | Jean Johnson "*Morgan Le Fey*" | Rodney Gifford "*Mordred*" | Tony Nott "*Lancelot*"

Terry Delaney "*Arthur*" | Vanessa Johnson "*Page*" | Zona Rice "*Guenevere*"

Harry Hartley "*Squire Dap*" | Brian Daniels "*Sir Lionel*" | Chris Lavis "*Sir Clarius*" | Peter Burr "*Sir Sagramore*" | Ian McLean "*Sir Dinadan*" | Peter Bailey "*Tom of Warwick*"

Marjory Wiggins "*Lady Sybil*" | Doreen Hann "*Nimue*" | Harold Dodd "*Meryln*" | Pauline Pritchard "*Lady Anne*"

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Cast in Order of Appearance

SIR DINADAN	IAN McLEAN
SIR LIONEL	BRIAN DANIELS
SIR SAGRAMORE	PETER BURR
MERLYN	HAROLD DODD
ARTHUR	TERENCE DELANEY
GUENEVERE	ZONA RICE
LADY ANN	PAULINE PRITCHARD
LADY SYBIL	MARJORIE WIGGINS
NIMUE	DOREEN HANN
LANCELOT	ANTHONY NOTT
SQUIRE DAP	HARRY HARTLEY
SIR CLARIUS	CHRISTOPHER LAVIS
PELLINORE	FREDERICK GIBBONS
MORDRED	RODNEY GIFFORD
MORGAN LE FEY	JEAN JOHNSON
TOM OF WARWICK	PETER BAILEY
GUILLIAM	PAUL DUCK
COLGREVANCE	JOHN DEEMING
BLIANT	DAVID GIBSON
CASTOR	SIDNEY HARDING

Ballad Singer : Harold Dodd *Page :* Vanessa Johnson *Bishop :* Reginald Marsh

Tumblers :—Mark Vaigncourt-Strallen, Ann Wilkinson.

Bear Trainer :—Jack Holley. *Dancing Bear :*—William Banks.

Knights, Lords and Ladies of The Court of King Arthur, Country Folk, Nuns, Monks, French Knights etc. : Ivor Baulch, Harry Collett, John Deeming, John Denning, Paul Duck, David Gibson, Sidney Harding, Tony Hall, John Keery, Reginald Marsh, Marcel Wills.
Marion Brown, Barbara Bell, Jean Chitty, Patricia Elliott, Beryl Franklin, Sheila Fisher, Maureen Grant, Patricia Haskins, Mary Hillard, Margaret Jackson, Christine Kershaw, Ann Kither, Betty Nation, Mary Orledge, Joan Salvage, Jean Stagg, Veronica Tucker, Jane Watts.

Squires and Heralds : Godfrey Cook, Stephen Cohen, Anthony Cottle, Hugh Bedie, Stephen Irwill, Maurice Johnson, Christopher Wixey, Richard Webb.

Dancers : Carolyn Boylan, Wendy Burke, Vivien Newport, Wendy Tilling, Janice Wyatt, Christine Whitehouse.

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Production Staff

Producer	:	William C. Fear
Musical Director	:	John H. Davies
Corp de Ballet Choreography	:	Marion Innes of Bristol School of Dancing
Principals Choreography	:	Jill Taylor
Stage Director	:	Peter Rice
Assistant Stage Director	:	James Allwright
Wardrobe Mistress	:	Ruth Griggs
Properties	:	Gwen Craig, Harry Salter
Lighting	:	John Bamford, Royston Bamford, Stephen Tuck
Make Up	:	Eddie Deeming, Joan Delaney, Bill Banks, Michael Rutter, John Deeming
Scenery	:	James Fredericks
Stage Staff	:	Michael Sprague, Alfred Fricker, Tommy Allwright, Dennis Harris, Peter Griggs, Eric Willmott, Derek Sprague, Chris Jenkins, Edward Tratt, Arnold Arnold, Terry Bool
Stage Carpenter	:	Ron Scovell
Wardrobe	:	Edna Gallop, Jean Eynon, Lilian Edgell
Prompt	:	Monica Banks
Call Boy	:	Jane Bamford
Costumes	:	S. B. Watts & Co.

Synopsis of Scenes

ACT I

Scene 1. ..... A Hilltop near Camelot, a long time ago.
Scene 2. ..... The Same — as night falls.
Scene 3. ..... The Royal Ante-Chamber — five years later.
Scene 4. ..... The Countryside near Camelot — a few months later.
Scene 5. ..... A garden near the Castle - immediately following.
Scene 6. ..... The Ante-Chamber — two weeks later.
Scene 7. ..... The Jousting Field — first light the following Saturday.
Scene 8. ..... The same — the Jousts — that day.
Scene 9. ..... The Ante-Chamber — late afternoon the same day.
Scene 10. ..... Outside the Chapel — that night.
Scene 11. ..... The Great Hall — immediately following.

ACT II

Scene 1. ..... The Castle Terrace — a few years later.
Scene 2. ..... The Ante-Chamber — a month later,
Scene 3. ..... Near the Forest of Morgan le Fey — next day.
Scene 4. ..... The forest of Morgan le Fey — immediately following.
Scene 5. ..... A Castle Chamber — that night.
Scene 6. ..... A Bedchamber — immediately following.
Scene 7. ..... The Battlements — several days later.
Scene 8. ..... France, between the Opposing Armies — some weeks later.

Musical Numbers

ACT I

1.	Overture	*Orchestra and Ensemble*
2.	March	*Orchestra and Ensemble*
3.	I wonder what the King is doing tonight	*Arthur*
4.	The simple joys of Maidenhood	*Guenevere*
5.	Camelot	*Arthur and Guenevere*
6.	Guevenere's Welcome	*Orchestra and Ensemble*
7.	End of Scene (Camelot Reprise)	*Arthur and Guenevere*
8.	Follow Me	*Nimue and Dancers*
9.	End of Ante-Chamber Scene	*Arthur and Guenevere*
10.	C'est Moi	*Lancelot*
11.	The lusty month of May	*Dancers, Guenevere & Ensemble*
11A.	Pellinore's Entrance	*Orchestra*
12.	Take me to the Fair	*Guevenere and Knights*
13.	Change of Scene	*Orchestra*
14.	How to handle a Woman	*Arthur*
15.	Tent Scene	*Orchestra*
16.	The Tumblers	*Change of Scene and Dancers*
16A.	Entrance of the Jousting Knights	*Orchestra*
17.	The Jousts	*Arthur, Guenevere & Ensemble*
18.	Before I gaze at you again	*Guenevere*
19.	Finale — Act I	

ACT II

20.	Entre'acte	*Orchestra*
21.	Fie on Goodness	*Knights and Male Ensemble*
22.	Guenevere's Entrance and If ever I would leave you	*Lancelot*
23.	The Seven Deadly Virtues	*Mordred*
24.	Change of Scene	*Orchestra*
25.	What do the simple folk do ?	*Arthur and Guenevere*
26.	The Enchanted Forest	*Mordred, Morgan le Fey and Dancers*
27.	The Persuasion	*Mordred and Morgan le Fey*
28.	The invisible wall	*Dancers*
29.	Change of Scene	*Orchestra*
30.	Change of Scene and incidental music	*Orchestra*
31.	I loved you once in silence	*Guenevere and Lancelot*
32.	Menacing Scream	*Orchestra*
33.	Guenevere	*Ballad Singer and Ensemble*
34.	Lancelot's Fanfare	*Orchestra*
35.	Farewell (Melos)	*Orchestra*
36.	Finale Ultimo	*Arthur, Tom, Pellinore and Ensemble*

37.	Curtain Call and Exit	*Ensemble*

Orchestra

Under the Direction of J. H. Davies

Violins	.....	A. Pooley (Leader)	*Pianoforte*	.....	J. Bosley
		H. Pooley	*Flute*	.....	J. Swayne
		R. Pinniger	*Clarinet*	.....	D. Green
		M. Openshaw	*Horn*	.....	J. Green
Viola	.....	R. Dammann	*Trumpet*	.....	L. Found
'Cello	.....	E. L. Wheeler	*Trombone*	.....	M. J. Priscott
'Bass	.....	R. Bond	*Percussion*	.....	D. Linsen

Visiting Societies

We are pleased to welcome among our audiences

Our President and His Guests.
Mr. Len Hewitt our N.O.D.A. Representative.
Mr. John Cockram S.W. Councillor of N.O.D.A.
Mr. John Coe.
Mendip Hospital Party.
Mells Mothers Union.
Our Friends from South Petherton.
Bath Operatic Society.
Keinton Mandeville Womens Institute.
Castle Cary Womens Institute.
Wells Darby and Joan Club.
Glastonbury and Street Operatic Society.
Oakhill Womens Institute.
Newquay Operatic Society.
Compton Dundon Womens Institute.
Longwell Green Old Time Club.
Taunton Operatic Society.
Burnham & Highbridge Operatic Society.
Frome Operatic Society.
Binegar Womens Institute.
Lydford and District Womens Institute.
Charltons Womens Institute.
Whitstone School, Shepton Mallet, Staff.
Wells and District Guiders.
Our Friends from Ystradgynlais.
Taunton Caledonian Society.
Street Young Wives.
Party from Cheshire Homes.

The Society's Previous 49 Shows were:

1902 Patience
1903 Iolanthe
1904 Pirates of Penzance
1905 Mikado
1906 Gondoliers
1907 Patience and Yeoman of The Guard
1908 Mikado
1909 H.M.S. Pinafore
1910 Iolanthe
1911 Merrie England
1912 Princess of Kensington
1913 Gondoliers
1914 Mikado
1914 H.M.S. Pinafore (Charity Performance)
1920 Yeomen of the Guard
1921 Pirates of Penzance
1922 Iolanthe
1923 Ruddigore
1924 Princess Ida
1925 Gondoliers
1926 Rose of Persia
1927 Mikado
1928 Yeoman of the Guard
1929 Duchess of Danzig
1930 Tom Jones
1931 Ruddigore
1932 Trial By Jury and H.M.S. Pinafore
1933 Iolanthe
1934 Pirates of Penzance
1935 Merrie England
1936 Arcadians (The Society amalgamating with Wells Musical Comedy Society)
1951 Pirates of Penzance
1952 Gondoliers
1953 The New Moon
1954 Trial By Jury and H.M.S. Pinafore
1955 Tom Jones
1956 The Rebel Maid
1957 The Gipsy Baron
1958 The Mikado
1959 The Arcadians
1960 Yeoman of the Guard
1961 Vagabond King
1962 Merrie England
1963 The Merry Widow
1964 Iolanthe
1965 Pink Champagne
1966 Belinda Fair
1967 Brigadoon
1968 Desert Song

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Mr. & Mrs. R. M. Yorke

The Committee apologizes to those subscribers whose names were received too late for inclusion in the programme.

The Chorus

The Squires and their Knights